



Once the final inspection of a construction project (or portion of a project) is completed, the contract (or portion of the contract) is formally accepted and upkeep of the newly constructed areas is turned over to the Maintenance Program. Among other important responsibilities, the maintenance program must continue erosion control, and manage drainage facilities and water pollution control devices.

Maintenance, Construction and Environmental personnel should work together to make certain water pollution control requirements are identified and managed appropriately.

Suggestions to assure a smooth transition of the construction project to maintenance are presented below. These tips have been developed through experience and respond to requirements set forth in the Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Construction Staff Guide and Construction Manual.

Maintenance Staff Should be Aware of Permit issues:

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Permit is required for projects disturbing 5 acres or more of soil, and sometimes those in sensitive areas. These projects are required to file a Notice of Intent (N.O.I.) and prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to construction. Once the project is completed, a Notice of Termination (N.O.T.) is filed with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) when the following conditions are met:

- Construction activity is completed.
- All appropriate elements of the SWPPP have been completed.
- The soil on the site is stabilized.

Maintenance Personnel Should Review the Site with Construction Personnel Prior to Contract Acceptance:

A joint review with other involved parties, such as the Contractor, Caltrans Landscape Architecture and Project Development staff, and particularly Caltrans Environmental staff, is recommended. A joint review allows the Maintenance staff to be fully aware of the water pollution control responsibilities being accepted. The required environmental review that Maintenance staff is encouraged to participate in includes verifying the following:

- Compliance with the NPDES Permit.
- Compliance with local storm water management requirements.
- Required elements of the SWPPP or WPCP are implemented.
- Temporary BMPs are removed (silt fences, straw bales, etc.).

- Permanent BMPs are properly constructed.
- Disturbed soils are stabilized against erosion.
- Construction materials and waste are properly disposed.
- A post-construction storm water management plan is in place.

Maintenance Staff Should Identify Specific Maintenance Issues:

- Review and discuss operation of the facility and features requiring special attention.
- Discuss work that may be required after contract acceptance.
- Be aware of the status of the N.O.T. for construction projects and any additional requirements.



New slope protected with erosion and sediment controls needs continued maintenance until vegetation is established.

Some Common Water Pollution Control Issues to Consider in Final Inspections:

Evaluate vegetated areas that are not fully established for continued sediment control protection; identify the responsible party for maintaining the controls - Contractor or Maintenance.

Determine who is responsible for calling back the Contractor should the vegetation not establish, or other problems occur.

Assure that temporary BMPs that cannot be removed because they are still needed for sediment and erosion control **are left in good condition.** Maintenance personnel should be fully informed of maintenance responsibilities for these temporary BMPs.

Assure that drainage facilities and structural controls are in good working order and clear of excess sediment and debris that could potentially inhibit flow or pollute downstream waters.

Review permanent drainage systems (e.g. riprap, down drains, inlets, ditches) for future maintenance needs.

This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Water Pollution Control Considerations for Maintenance Acceptance of Completed Construction Sites

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Maintenance Manual, Chapter C-6, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jack Broadbent, Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0361